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a pupil while at school to join any society or fraternity organized outside of the school." This is paternalism with emphasis. One discovers with real gratitude, most drastic and specific legislation against every form of menace to the innocence and virtue of girls and women. Information is not at hand as to the success of this legislation. Another interesting item is that since 1897, "All organizations, institutions or charitable associations which solicit public donations in Iowa must obtain a state license from the Secretary of State." "Churches and schools or church and school societies are not, however, included."

In the author's preface, we find the principle that legislation may be deemed symbolic of the progress that is made (p. ix). In a restricted sense, this is true, but on the whole, we have to look upon legislation as patchwork, the extent of which measures the breakdown of the higher and nobler agencies that sustain social order. The reviewer would prefer not to look upon legislation as a desirable thing and not to see the demand for legislation grow unchecked. We might keep to our ideals more successfully if we looked upon it as an increasingly necessary evil.

On page nine the author tells us that "Wherever religious freedom has been won and a measure of civil and political liberty attained, there has followed a movement for social justice." It is hardly probable that the author means to confine the search for social justice to the historical period which coincides with religious freedom. Attention is called to the statement simply to indicate the misleading implications that may be found in it. The author states also on page twenty-five, "Legislation is a question of expediency rather than of principle, each act being decided upon its own merits. The only limitations upon governmental action should be those dictated by experience or the needs of the times." This exposes the individual to menaces that many of us would not welcome. There are those who believe that the inherent nature of things and the fundamental relations between the individual and the state place certain checks upon the latter other than those of expediency.

The work is of very attractive appearance, well-bound and printed on excellent paper.

The South Americans. By W. H. Koebel. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1915. Pp. viii + 366.

A great deal of information is condensed within the 366 pages of this large octavo volume, which the publishers have brought out in a very neat form. Much has been written in late years of South America in general and of the various Republics in particular. Here we find one

thing, and there another, but Mr. Koebel, known by other works on different South American countries, writes a little about everything, the synopses at the beginning of each chapter giving a summary glance, and an alphabetical index at the end of the book serving as a guide. Without any pretence at literary elegance nor attempt at humor, so frequent nowadays, the author goes straight to the point, and *multum in brevi*, gives the reader a wonderful amount of condensed information that one could hardly find anywhere else. There is scarcely a question we might ask about South America that does not find an answer here. The natural resources of the countries, their industrial possibilities, their population, manners and customs, religion and education, all have a place in this book, and they are treated sympathetically. The author does not, however, overlook the fact that South America consists of many countries and that what may be said of one is not always applicable to another. He admits that it is ridiculous "to attempt to speak of South America as a single entity."

Three pages of the book are devoted to the prevailing religion of the different countries. Although correct, they are such as a superficial observer might write. No allusion is made to the reforms of latter years, to the influence of foreign ecclesiastics, and to the religious reawakening that seems to be taking place. Neither do we find any mention of the ubiquitous Protestant activities.

Among the many interesting things the author says, one may point to his remarks regarding the relations between North and South America. Coming from an Englishman they are worth reading; for it is well to see ourselves as others see us. To the average American who complains that our trade relations with South America has not been rapid, the reviewer would suggest a careful perusal of pages 74-78.

In regard to the author's reference to the introduction of negro slavery, the liberty may be taken of suggesting that he look a little more into the matter of Las Casas' responsibility, and he may cease to regard him as its cause. Surely this is one of the instances where "history repeats itself." No one ever regretted more an unguarded remark than the great Bishop of Chiapas, and it is not fair to regard an escaped word as the cause of negro slavery in America.

Our author also alludes to "peonage" and the atrocities of the rubber country, a subject that occupied the world a few years ago from which the barbarities of the present war on a larger scale have, unfortunately, withdrawn attention.

The chapter on "Literature and the Press" deals with a feature of South American life that has often been overlooked by those writers whose main object seems to be to exhibit the commercial opportunities

to the south of us. Yet this subject is of vast importance to those who would know South America well.

There are many other interesting points scattered throughout the book which anyone who has neither time nor inclination to read the whole may easily discover by glancing at the synopses of chapters. Surely among the many works of late years that have been written on South America, that of Mr. Koebel deserves to occupy a prominent place for its great fund of information.

The Life of Bernal Diaz del Castillo. Being Some Account of him, taken from his True History of the Conquest of New Spain. By R. B. Cunningham Graham. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1915. Pp. xiv + 250.

Relying on the main title of this book, the student of Spanish American history is apt to find himself disappointed. Were he to glance at it merely on the cover, without observing the qualification, as it appears on the title page, he would, probably, look for something new, for some fresh information regarding Bernal Diaz with which he is not acquainted. A brief examination of the contents would soon dispel this illusion, and he would discover that there is nothing known of, perhaps, the most interesting story of the Conquest of Mexico, except what he himself tells us.

"No one has written of the man with sympathy," we are told, "for Prescott did not understand him, being weighed down with prejudice and pride, both of religion and of race." Yet, if we turn to Prescott's critical notes in his *Conquest of Mexico*, we find the highest encomiums passed upon the style of Bernal Diaz. Our author prides himself that, owing to his own experiences in the wilds of such countries as Mexico and Paraguay, he is better able to understand and to sympathize with the old soldier-author.

The great merit lies in the fact that he was a witness of and an actor in the scenes he relates in his book. "Had he not written it, literature would have been poorer," many interesting facts would have been lost, and "of the outward semblance of Alvarado and Cortes, of Montezuma and of Landoval, little enough would have been known, for Fray Francisco Gomara wrote when all of them were dead." In writing his work, Bernal Diaz had in view to offset that of Lopez de Gomara, and to give their due meed of praise to his beloved commander, Cortes, and his old companions in arms, of whom he was, probably, the sole survivor when, in his old age, about 1568, he composed the *True History of the Con-*